

HA-1479

1888

Gorrell House  
551 Rock Spring  
Bel Air  
private

This is typical front gable Victorian except for the wide overhang of the eaves and the exposed rafters. This is a fairly common Victorian element that is rare in Bel Air. The Methodist Protestant Parsonage, 125 N. Main Street, has the same kind of roof, although it is a more elaborate house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Gorrell House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
551 Rock Spring 1st  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Bel Air  
STATE VICINITY OF COUNTY  
Maryland Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Albert A. Neville, Jr. Telephone #: 838-7799  
STREET & NUMBER  
551 Rock Spring  
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
Bel Air VICINITY OF Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Bel Air Maryland

Liber #: 1041  
Folio #: 143

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

86-177?

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story, three bay, frame Victorian house is at 551 Rock Spring Avenue in Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The gable roof has a wider than usual overhang and exposed rafters. The house is sided in asphalt single except for the facade (west) and a piece of enclosed porch which are shiplap. The front gable has the ubiquitous round headed 2/2 window and the rest of the windows, even those in the side gables, are also 2/2 except for the first story front windows which are 2/4. The door is in the south bay of the west elevation. The front porch has a hipped roof carried on chamfered posts on two blocks. There are decorative brackets. The north elevation shows one bay in the main block and a two back building with its own gable roof at right angles to that of the main building. The south elevation of the main block is blind except for the gable window; the back building has been added to: a sleeping porch with three pairs of casement windows is in the second story over a little recessed porch and an enclosed portion (east). Behind (east) of this addition to the south elevation of the ell is a hipped-roof porch on plain posts. Originally there was probably a porch along the whole south side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NA-1479

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is a smaller version of the Methodist Protestant Parsonage (124 N. Main) and is a typical Victorian house in Bel Air, save for the exposed rafters which are unusual. Its ell has been added to several times. The house was built by J. Thomas Gorrell in 1888 on land he bought from his next door neighbor to the south, James Dean (60/305) and from the heirs of Frederick Williams (62/176). Mr. Gorrell may be the J. Gorrell who had the blacksmith shop in the flat iron in 1858. By 1878 the shop was run by John Alexander. The dates make it more likely the builder of this house belonged to the next generation.

In 1904 Richard Dallam sued Gorrell's heirs and the property was sold to William L. Gorrell (113/143). In 1921 Gorrell sold it to Jessie Gorrell who assumed the \$600 mortgage (mtg. 112/366, deed 173/119). Miss Gorrell sold it to Stevenson W. Webster in 1932 (22/460). Webster, the son of R. Harry Webster and the grandson of Stevenson Williams who originally owned one of the parcels, taught in a boys' school and lived there only during the summers. He sold it to Paul Glackin, a Bel Air real estate agent, in 1969 (827/186). Glackin sold it the following year to Thomas R. Coale (844/150). Coale sold it to the present owner, Albert A. Neville, Jr., in 1977 (1041/143).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harford Democrat  
~~1858, 1878 Map~~

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This property occupies parcel #172 in the Town of Bel Air.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

11 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

TITLE: 551 Rock Spring

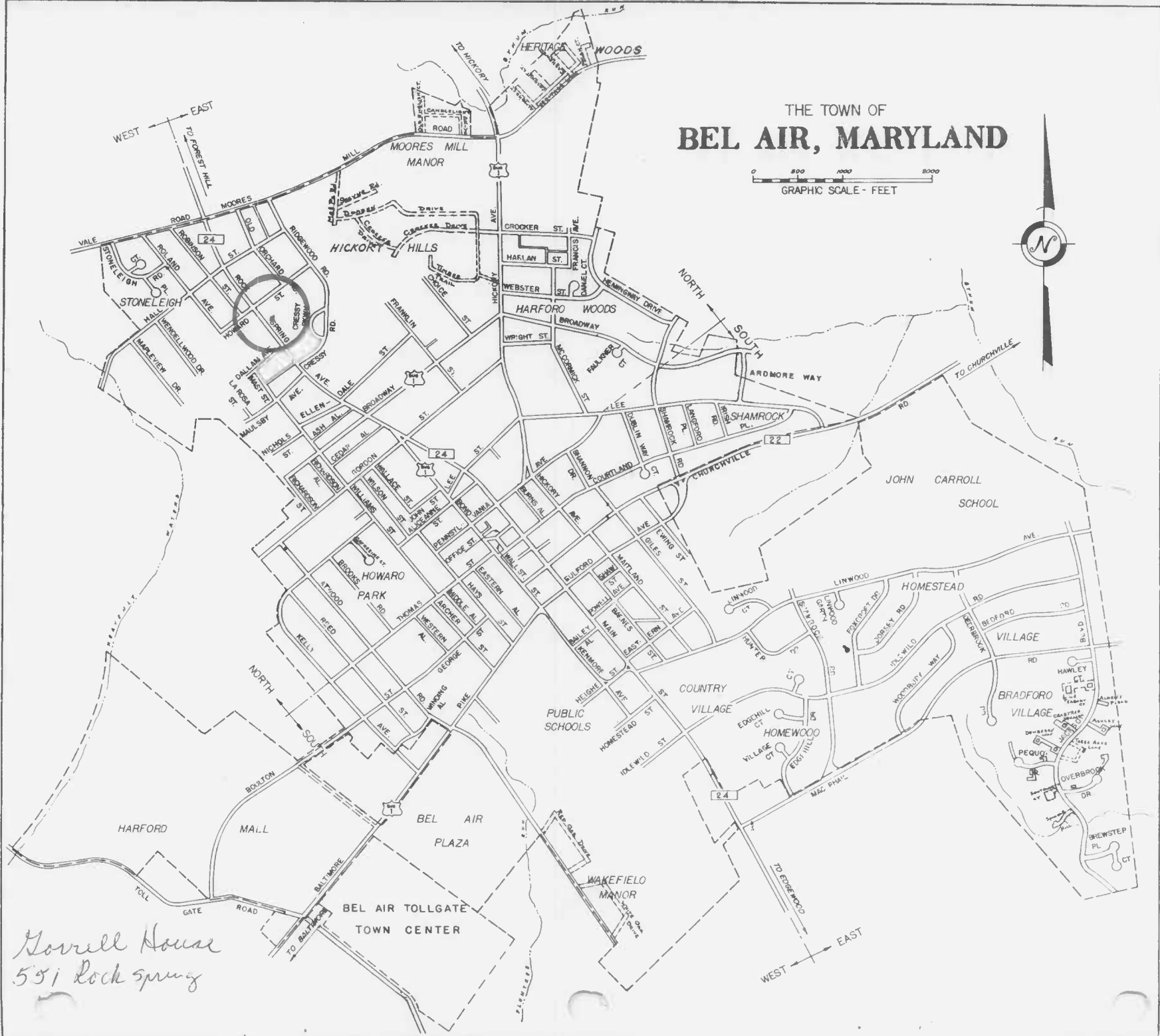
1041/143	15 September 1977 Thomas R. Coale & Carol to Albert A. Neville, Jr. & Elizabeth 55' x 236'
844/150	13 May 1970 Paul L. Glackin & Dorothy to Thomas R. Coale & Carol
827/186	30 September 1969 Stevenson W. Webster to Paul L. Glackin & Dorothy
221/460	4 January 1932 Jessie Gorrell to Stevenson W. Webster
173/119	9 April 1921 William L. Gorrell & Elizabeth to Jessie Gorrell assumes \$600 mortgage (112/366)
113/143	7 June 1904 Richard Dallam, Trustee to William L. Gorrell Trustee in Richard Dallam vs M. Elizabeth Gorrell et al 2 parcels
#1 60/305	20 June 1888 James Dean & Hannah to J. Thomas Gorrell

#2  
62/176

21 June 1888  
Stevenson A. Williams et al  
to  
J. Thomas Gorrell

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000 2000  
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1479

Novell House  
551 Rock spring









